

Section 5 (as amended by chapter 551, Acts of 1890-91). Nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to prevent any citizen or subject of any foreign country temporarily residing in the United States, either in private or official capacity, from engaging under contract or otherwise persons not residents or citizens of the United States to act as private secretaries, servants or domestics for such foreigner temporarily residing in the United States as aforesaid: nor shall this Act be so construed as to prevent any person or persons, partnership or corporation from engaging under contract or agreement skilled workmen in foreign countries to perform labour in the United States in or upon any new industry not at present established in the United States; provided, that skilled labour for that purpose cannot otherwise be obtained.

Section 8.—“An Act to prohibit the immigration of foreigners and aliens under contract to perform labour.”—And the same is hereby amended so as to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury, in case he shall be satisfied that an immigrant has been allowed to land contrary to the prohibition of that law, to cause such immigrant, within the period of one year of landing or entry, to be taken into custody and returned to the country from whence he came, at the expense of the owner of the importing vessel.

I have here the specification of contract of the United States Government. Clause 1 of the specification is as follows:—

The attention of bidders is especially invited to the Acts of Congress, approved 26th February, 1885, and 23rd February, 1887, as printed in volume 23, page 332, and volume 24, page 414, United States Statutes at large, which prohibit the importation of foreigners and aliens under contract or agreement to perform labour in the United States or territories or the District of Columbia.

Clause 2 is as follows:—

Preference will be given to articles or materials of domestic production, conditions and quality and price being equal, including in the price of foreign articles the duty thereon.

Clause 7 says:—

Surities must be citizens of the United States.

So the House will see that preference is given to articles and materials of domestic production, thus making it almost impossible for Canadians to go to the United States and take work. Even if a Canadian contractor took his plant to the United States, he would be compelled to pay a duty of 40 or 50 per cent on its admittance. I was led to understand some time ago—I do not know what is done now—that American plant and material was allowed to come in from the United States under bond, it being agreed that the plant should be taken back when the contract was finished. I have spoken to the Controller of Customs on this matter, and he informs me that such is not the case. I am very glad to know it, because it would be very unfair to compel the payment of duty on Canadian plant entering the United States, and allow similar plant and material to come in from the United States free of duty. Another difficulty that stands in the way of Canadians

Mr. McLENNAN.

going to the United States and getting contracts is, that sureties must be citizens of the United States. It is also found that the amount of the security is very large, and that the sureties must be well-known men, living in the United States, and they must make affidavit on the back of the bond or in contract that they justify in double the amount of the penalty. Then, when the contractor obtains the sureties, they must be endorsed by officials of the United States Government, thus making it still more difficult for a Canadian or alien to get work in that country. I have received several letters from Canadian contractors in connection with this matter, including one from Mr. John S. Henry, of Hamilton, who says that ten years ago we could go freely into the United States and compete for contracts, but at the present time no Canadian need apply; that if he was fortunate enough to get the work, he would be so harassed by every one that he would be glad to give it up, and that it is practically impossible for any Canadian to get any federal or state government contract. I find that the legislatures of the different states have passed legislation preventing Canadians getting contracts under any consideration. At page 134 of the statutes of Illinois, Acts of 1889, I find the following:—

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any board or commission, or any officer or other person acting for the state, or any county, township, city, village, district, or other municipality in the state, or any contractor or sub-contractor, under any or either of said municipalities, to employ any person or persons other than native-born or naturalized citizens, or those who have in good faith declared their intentions to become citizens of the United States, when such employees are to be paid, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, out of any funds raised by taxation.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of any person or persons employing labour or other services, to be paid for, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, out of any funds raised by taxation, to file with the treasurer or disbursing officer of such funds a certificate showing, to the best of his knowledge and belief, that the persons so employed * * * are citizens of the United States, or have in good faith declared their intentions to become such citizens, or are of such age or sex, that they cannot declare their intentions to become citizens, or cannot be formally declared to be citizens by an order of a court of record.

Section 5. Whenever any employer, contractor or sub-contractor, by written or oral information, or from any source, has reason to believe that he has in his employ persons other than native or naturalized citizens, or those who have in good faith declared their intentions to become citizens, whose pay is to be drawn, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from such public funds, he shall at once investigate the matter, and if he shall find said information to have been correct, he shall discharge such employee or employees, and a failure to do so shall render him liable to the municipality * * * for any of such funds paid to such alien.

Section 6. In all cases where an alien, after filing his declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, shall, for the space of